

Message Text

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ACTION DIWY-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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SUBJECT: CHILEAN REGIME ATTACKED, DEFENDED AT WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE

1. DR. ALICIA ROMO ROMAN, CHILEAN DELEGATE TO IWY CON-
FERENCE, ADDRESSED THE MEETING ON JUNE 29 AND DEFENDED
HER GOVERNMENT. SHE SAID THAT "CHILE COMMITTED A GREAT
CRIME AGAINST SOVIET MARXISM, SOMETHING THAT (THE USSR)
WILL NEVER FORGIVE." IN A CUTTING AND OBVIOUS REFERENCE
TO HORTENSIA BUSSI DE ALLENDI, WIDOW OF THE LATE PRESIDENT
OF CHILE, SHE SAID "... (THE USSR) USED TO SLANDER US A
POOR WOMAN WHO SHOULD BE PITIED..." "(MRS. ALLENDE) WAS FIRST
EXPLOITED BY UNIDAD POPULAR TO PLAY THE ROLE OF WIFE --
AND SHE WELL KNOWS WHAT THAT WAS -- AND NOW SHE RUNS ABOUT
THE WORLD THE PRISONER OF SOVIET TOTALITARIANISM WHICH
DRESSES HER IN WIDOW'S TEARS. THIS IS AS FALSE AS WAS HER
WIFE'S ROLE DURING THE UNIDAD POPULAR GOVERNMENT." MRS.
ROMO PRAISED THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES AND SAID THAT ONLY
SUCH GRAVE CIRCUMSTANCES AS THOSE EXPERIENCED UNDER THE
ALLENDE REGIME COULD HAVE BROUGHT CHILE TO SUBSTITUTE A
"GOVERNMENT OF ORDER" FOR CHILE'S CUSTOMARY DEMOCRACY.

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FOLLOWING HER SPIRITED DEFENSE OF THE GOC, SHE ADDRESSED

THE GENERAL ISSUE OF WOMEN'S PROBLEMS WITH RELEVANCE AND SOME ELOQUENCE.

2. ON JUNE 30, CHILEAN EXILES AND ASSORTED CRITICS OF THE PINOCHET REGIME HELD A SOLIDARITY RALLY IN A MEXICO CITY THEATER. BOTH HORTENSIA BUSSI DE ALLENDE (IN TEARS) AND THE LATE PRESIDENT'S SISTER, LAURA ALLENDE, ADDRESSED THE MEETING. MRS. ROMO WAS DESCRIBED BY THE LATTER AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE "DEGENERATE FASCIST WOMAN". SHE SAID THAT HER BROTHER'S GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY IMPERIALISM; "...THE PENTAGON, NIXON, KISSINGER INTERVENED." AMONG THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WERE SOVIET COSMONAUT VALENTINA TERESHKOVA, CUBAN VILMA ESPIN DE CASTRO, FANNY EDELMANN OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN, NORTH VIETNAMESE LE THI XUYEN, AND PUERTO RICAN NATIONALIST FLAVIA RIVERO.

3. MEXICAN PRESS COVERAGE WAS SLANTED. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NACIONAL REFERRED TO MRS. ROMO AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHILEAN "FASCISTIC MILITARY REGIME" (IN WHAT PURPORTED TO BE STRAIGHT, NON-EDITORIAL, UNBYLINED REPORTAGE). EXCELSIOR, AS WELL AS NACIONAL, REPORTED THAT MRS. ROMO SPOKE TO AN ALMOST EMPTY HALL AFTER MOST DELEGATIONS WALKED OUT. USDEL OBSERVATIONS WERE THAT FEW BOYCOTTED THE SPEECH AND THAT MRS. ROMO RECEIVED ABOUT THE SAME ATTENTION AS OTHER SPEAKERS.

4. THE ATTACKS ON CHILE'S REPRESENTATIVE, THE SOLIDARITY RALLY, AND THE BIASED REPORTING CERTAINLY CAME AS NO SURPRISE. HOWEVER, MRS. ROMO SKILLFULLY DEFENDED HER GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS, IN A PREDICTABLY HOSTILE ATMOSPHERE.
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